

# MASSACHUSETTS FIRES IN 1998

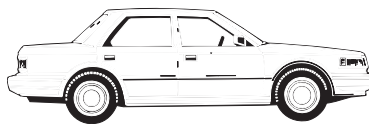
## 25,872 Fires - Down 8% From 1997

59 Civilian Deaths  
568 Civilian Injuries  
1 Fire Service Death  
768 Fire Service Injuries  
\$181 Million in Property Damage  
3,882 Reported Arsons



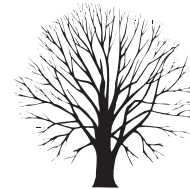
### Structure Fires

10,612 Fires - Down 7%  
54 Civilian Deaths  
491 Civilian Injuries  
698 Fire Service Injuries  
\$158 Million  
939 Arsons Reported



### Motor Vehicle Fires

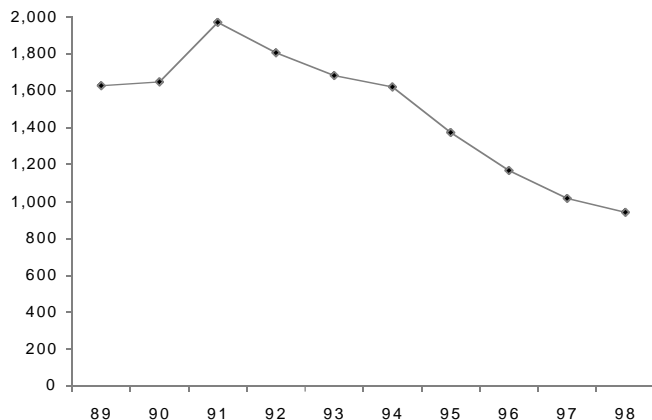
5,565 Fires - Down 9%  
5 Civilian Deaths  
27 Civilian Injuries  
24 Fire Service Injuries  
\$19 Million in Property Damage  
836 Arsons Reported



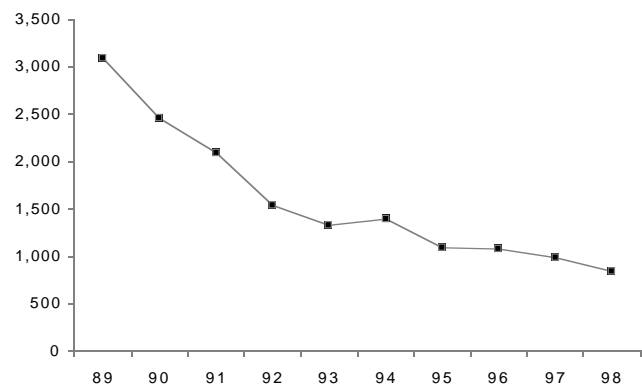
### Other Fires

9,695 Fires - Down 9%  
0 Civilian Deaths  
50 Civilian injuries  
46 Fire Service Injuries  
\$4 Million  
2,107 Arsons Reported

### Structure Arson by Year



### Motor Vehicle Arson by Year

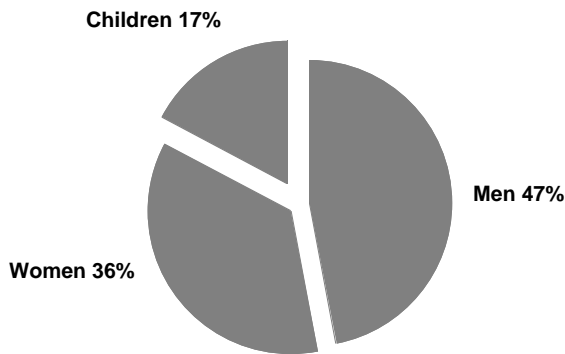


Structure arson fell 8% and motor vehicle arson fell 15% from 1997 to 1998. Since 1986, motor vehicle arson has fallen 85%. Since the Burned Motor Vehicle Reporting Law took effect in 1987, owners of burned vehicles must personally file a report at the fire station before they can collect on their fire insurance. Vehicle arson began dropping at that time.

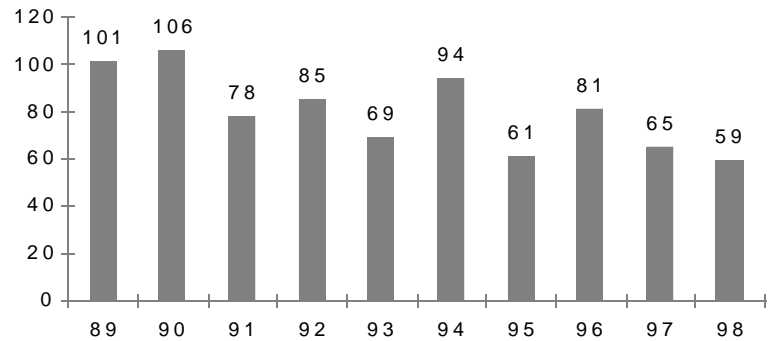
For statistical purposes, a fire is considered arson when the ignition factor is listed as incendiary or suspicious.

# MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DEATHS IN 1998

## Civilian Fire Deaths

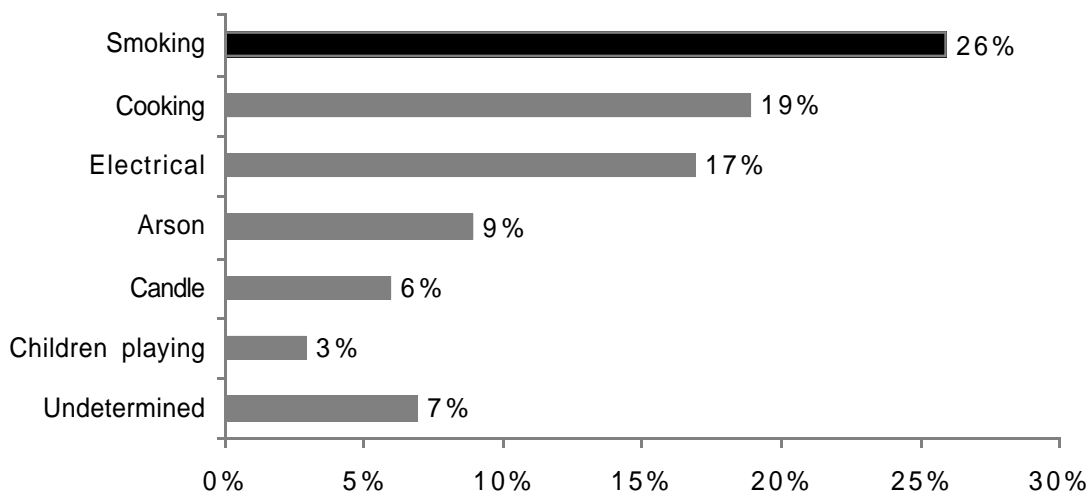


## Fire Deaths by Year



- 59 civilians - 28 men, 21 women and 10 children - died from fires in 1998.
- Seventeen percent (17%) of fire deaths were children under 18 years of age. Forty-seven percent (47%) of fire victims were adults between the ages of 18 and 65. Thirty-six percent (36%) of fire victims were elderly.
- In 1998, civilian fire deaths were at their lowest since World War II.
- 91% of the civilian fire victims died in the so-called *safety* of their homes.
- Over half of the fire deaths in people's homes occurred in homes with no working smoke detectors. Either no detectors were installed or the detectors did not operate.
- Improper or unsafe use of smoking materials caused 26% of the structure fire deaths, the leading cause.

## Causes of Structure Fire Deaths



**Test your smoke detector and plan your escape!**  
*Fire doesn't wait!*

Department of Fire Services Office of the State Fire Marshal  
P.O. Box 1025 • State Road • Stow, MA 01775